Pablo González-Vera, a quadrature of his work

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Abstract

In this talk I will try to estimate the breadth and width of Pablo's mathematical work. Measuring the influence he had, and still has, on the work of all the people who have known him professionally. That ranges from the two-point Padé approximation that he started with, but that quickly came to blossom in many papers on rational approximation with many more points of interpolation (countably many). His favored application of these was the design of numerical quadrature formulas. This was mainly developed together with his seven PhD students in the group in La Laguna and colleagues from abroad. He was rarely the sole author of a paper showing his skill as a team player and an excellent team leader.

It is a difficult task to do this in just one lecture. So like quadrature is finding a square with the same area as a more amorphous region, I will only be constructing approximations that may be about exact for certain subsections but it will be largely an approximate recollection valid within rounding errors caused by observations done with finite precision and finite memory storage.

There are of course many other aspects of Pablo as an administrator, a sports enthousiast, a musician, a person, a husband, a father, a friend. It was impossible to collaborate with him and not instantly be charmed by his warm personality. His colleagues and students were friends by definition. However I will avoid this emotional quicksand and mainly stick to the mathematics in this lecture.

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